

Amendment to the Claims

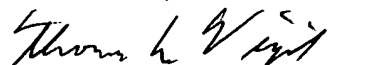
Complete listing of the claims.

1. (Original) Water soluble salt cores manufactured by compacting a mixture of water soluble salts and binder under pressure and by subsequently subjecting said compacted mixture to a thermal treatment, characterized in that the binder is an inorganic phosphate or a mixture of inorganic phosphates with a fraction of between 0.5 and 10 wt. % of said mixture.
2. (Original) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the binder contains a fraction of an inorganic borate.
3. (Currently amended) The water soluble cores as set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the mixture contains a fraction of between >0 and 10 wt. % of a parting agent.
4. (Currently amended) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that the inorganic phosphate is a monoaluminium phosphate.
5. (Currently amended) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that the inorganic phosphate is a boron phosphate.
6. (Currently amended) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that the inorganic phosphate is a sodium polyphosphate.
7. (Currently amended) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in ~~any one of the afore mentioned claims~~, claim 1 characterized in that thermal treatment occurs at temperatures of less than 730 °C.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By



Thomas R. Vigil
Reg. No. 24,542
Attorney for Applicant

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120 South Riverside Plaza
Floor 22
Chicago, IL 60606